

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1620

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002

NEW PASSPORT APPLICATION COLLECTION CENTRES .

KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;MARGARET ALVA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to open new passport application collection centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to open a new passport office in Karnataka, in view of the heavy rush in Bangalore passport office; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

a)&b) The Government has decided to decentralize the passport services to bring these services closer to the people. Under the scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells (DPCs). The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the DPCs and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports. This scheme has already been launched in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Sikkim and Nagaland.

c) There is no proposal to open a new Passport Office in Karnataka.

d) Does not arise.